

THE STATE OF FOOD AND NUTRITION IN MONTANA

REPORT OF THE
MONTANA STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL
ON FOOD AND NUTRITION

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Governor Judy Martz participating in the farmers' market promotion



A sampling of Montana-Made Products



Examples of products produced at the Montana Food Bank Network/Montana Correctional Enterprises Cannery

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Food Security is defined by the United States Department of Agriculture as: People having access to enough food for active, healthy lives for all household members. Food Insecurity occurs when people lack sufficient money or other resources for food. As more Montanans struggle to improve their food security and meet their nutritional needs, food and nutrition programs and non-profit organizations across Montana continue to offer their support through unique collaborative efforts.

These efforts to improve the nutritional status of residents and to increase food security in Montana have resulted in the following:

- Provided Tribal Colleges with food safety trainings to improve food service workers' ability to make informed, responsible decisions related to controlling food safety hazards.
- Worked with the Office of the Governor to implement the Governor's Strong Families, Healthy Families initiative focusing on nutrition and physical activity efforts in schools, communities and work sites.
- Processed 202,280 cans of food and 2,322 cases of dry-packed food at the Montana Food Bank Network/Montana Correctional Enterprises (MFBN/MCE) Cannery at Deer Lodge.
- Added 18 new sites in the Commodity Supplemental Food Program.
- Provided education to help food stamp recipients manage their food resources in a more effective, healthier way.

Challenges still exist, however, to improve food security long term. There is a need to:

- Secure consistent funding for the MFBN/MCE Cannery.
- Improve food safety standards across all spectrums of the food industry—from production to consumption.
- Prevent childhood obesity through nutrition education and physical activity strategies focusing on schools, communities and families.
- Continue to seek stable funding sources to sustain the WIC and Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Programs and increase the number of participating sites.
- Expand the outreach efforts of food and nutrition programs to persons with disabilities.
- Increase participation in the Food Stamp Program through food stamp outreach and education.

~VISION~

The Montana State Advisory Council on Food and Nutrition will lead and facilitate the creation of an optimal food and nutrition environment for all Montanans.

2002 STATE OF FOOD AND NUTRITION IN MONTANA

STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON FOOD AND NUTRITION

CURRENT SITUATION

- From 1998-2000, approximately 13 percent of Montana households were “food insecure,” and the state ranked ninth nationally for food insecurity according to a study by the Center on Hunger and Poverty at Brandeis University. Food insecurity is when individuals lack adequate amounts of safe, nutritious food that can be obtained in socially acceptable ways – without resorting to emergency food supplies.
- Some food and nutrition programs have been severely affected by State budget cuts, which further exacerbates food insecurity in Montana.

PROGRESS (2001 FOLLOW-UP):

- Recommended that a revision to the personal care home Administrative Rule of Montana (ARM) include stipulations that those homes meet nutrition standards. Implementing these standards would help ensure that meals offered to residents are in alignment with national nutrition guidelines.
- Through a Federal grant, provided \$500 mini-grants to five communities to implement projects that improved nutrition or food access.
- In partnership with Montana Department of Agriculture, produced a television and radio public service announcement (PSA) featuring Governor Martz. The PSA promoted farmers’ markets and the WIC and Senior Farmers’ Market Nutrition Programs.

POLICY/ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Leverage Federal resources to provide food and nutrition services to low-income Montanans.
- Actively pursue outreach and education to promote participation in all food and nutrition programs.
- Identify effective strategies to increase Montanans’ access to food and nutrition programs through increased support of agencies that administer the programs.

MONTANA FOOD BANK NETWORK

CURRENT SITUATION:

- The epidemic of hunger is spreading across Montana at a rapid pace. Local community food pantries are facing shortages of food. The rate of increase of food pantry usage ranges from 27 percent to 42 percent across the state.
- Food pantries are struggling to keep the doors open due to increased costs and lack of consistent volunteer support.
- Volunteers who have run a food pantry for a number of years are retiring their volunteer position, and no one is taking their place.
- The number of Montana children served through food banks and on-site meal programs increased by 11 percent.
- Farmers are hard-pressed to donate their unsaleable crop because they lack the tax write-off capability that is available to large corporations.

PROGRESS (2001 FOLLOW-UP):

- Provided over 3 million pounds of food to supplement local resources for 138 food banks and on-site meal programs.
- In collaboration with 12 local communities, held Town Meetings to educate local legislators on hunger, housing and senior issues affecting their community. The Town Meetings took place in October with significant participation from community leaders and legislators.
- Processed more than 202,000 cans of nutritious food at the MFBN/MCE Cannery at Deer Lodge Prison from July 2001 through September 2002. This represents about 8,500 cases of soups, vegetables, fruit, and jellies distributed to hunger agencies. Also repackaged bulk pasta and cereal and processed and froze hundreds of pounds of Montana salmon and game meat.

POLICY/ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Strengthen Montana's food banks and on-site meal programs through increased food acquisition, training and collaboration.
- Collaborate with America's Second Harvest and other national groups to encourage passage of the CARE Act, which would give a tax break to small farmers and businesses and encourage increased food donations to local communities.
- Build on the food resources available through the MFBN/MCE Cannery to provide additional support for food banks and feeding programs.

MONTANA FOOD BANK NETWORK ADVOCACY COUNCIL

CURRENT SITUATION:

- During the past year, the number of Montanans needing access to food and nutrition services has steadily increased. In May 2002, over 65,000 residents received food stamps, and payments for food stamps that month increased 6 percent when compared to May 2001.
- According to a recent study by the Food Security Institute at Brandeis University, Montana was one of 10 states with the highest level of food insecurity. The study reported that 130,000 Montanans were "food insecure," and 32,000 experienced the even more serious condition of hunger.
- Congress failed to reauthorize the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Bill before the program expired in September 2002. A three-month extension was given to the program, and TANF reauthorization work will begin again when Congress reconvenes in 2003.

PROGRESS:

- Montana participated in the Western Region Anti-Hunger Consortium (WRAHC), which prepared an approach for the 2003 reauthorization of the Child Nutrition Bill. Key points include: Increasing Academic Success for Hungry Learners; Feeding More Kids; Processing Less Paper; and Helping Kids Prevent Obesity.
- Seventeen Community Nutrition Coalitions (CNCs) were visited this summer to assess their current status and determine additional support for their efforts.
- The Montana Food Source Web site (designed to help residents easily locate all Montana food assistance programs) is in development. This Web site mirrors projects that other state hunger advocates are implementing nationwide. After Web site completion, agencies around the state will be informed so that clients, caseworkers, social service agencies, health care providers, employers, faith-based organizations and others can access information for their region.

POLICY/ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Collaborate with other anti-hunger groups in Montana and the Northwest to develop policies to reduce the incidence and rate of increase of hunger.
- Work to assure that the Child Nutrition Reauthorization Bill includes support for all Montana children.
- Work closely with Montana's Federal Delegation and local legislators to assure prompt reauthorization of the TANF Bill early in 2003.

FOOD SAFETY

CURRENT SITUATION:

- Financial costs of food-borne illnesses are extremely high as scarce public tax dollars must cover health care and investigative costs, and Montanans lose wages due to food-borne illness. These losses affect Montana's overall health care costs, employee productivity, and the health and economic well being of families and communities.
- Concern about food safety throughout the food system has reached an all-time high. A "food system" approach considers the processes and relationships involved with providing safe food from production to consumption. Food safety also plays a significant role in value-added agriculture, youth development and workforce preparation, community and economic development, and safe food operations for tourism and trade.
- Teens make up a large percentage of the food service industry in Montana. Because Montana's 14- and 15-year olds are allowed to work in non-hazardous jobs, our teen workforce rate is likely higher than the national average. Food safety training for teens working in food service is an important public health issue.

PROGRESS:

- Top Notch Food Safety (Tribal College Food Safety Outreach Project) provides expertise to Tribal Colleges and within tribal communities to improve the ability of food service workers to make informed, responsible decisions related to controlling food safety hazards. A variety of extra food safety trainings were conducted in tribal communities through a grant from MSU Extension Service.
- Montana State University Extension and Montana high schools are working with the food service industry to help promote food safety training. The program, Food Safety Works, has received praise from restaurant managers and students and is delivered through high school Family and Consumer Sciences teachers.
- The "Avenue to Revenue: Food Safety" videoconference focused on how food service managers can use food safety standards to positively impact their bottom line profits. Funded and organized by the MSU Extension Service, this videoconference featured business managers sharing practical ideas and solutions for implementing food safety practices and how these practices helped their business decrease food costs, generate return customers and increase employee morale.

POLICY/ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Increase financial support for food safety education and training for people at high risk for food-borne illness, including infants, children, seniors and those who are chronically ill or hungry. Food service establishments serving these high-risk people include schools, restaurants, food banks, soup kitchens, senior centers and grocery stores.
- Promote integration of food safety training and safe food handling within the entire food system (from "farm to fork"). This would involve integrated food safety training for those involved with food production, food processing and wholesale and retail operations and also for consumers.

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY (MSU) EXTENSION AND EXPANDED FOOD AND NUTRITION EDUCATION PROGRAM (EFNEP)

CURRENT SITUATION:

- Poor diet is a contributing factor for chronic diseases and other health problems. Low-income Montana families are particularly impacted by a poor diet. Helping them choose a better diet while on a tight food budget pays long-term dividends.
- A significant portion of Montana elementary school children have reported being concerned about their weight, and many of them diet to lose weight. Some dieting practices may be due to inappropriate concern with media-defined beauty.

PROGRESS:

- In partnership with other groups, promoted health and fitness for people of all shapes and sizes and enhanced public awareness of eating disorders through the Montana campaign, "Pathways to Health: Preventing Eating Disorders." Educational efforts included the Montana PBS television show, "Get Real: Truth, Ads and the Media," on-line classes, the enhanced website (www.msu.edu/eatingdisorders) and research and educational programs for teachers and health professionals. This program was one of 12 programs chosen nationally as a "Program of Excellence" for the Cooperative Extension Service.
- In 2002, Montanans participating in the nutrition education programs (EFNEP and the Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program) reported that over 93% of them improved food practices or food resource management practices. Results of a regional EFNEP cost/benefit study indicated that for every dollar spent on nutrition education through Extension, \$8.46 in future health care savings resulted. In Montana, then, the payoff is real for taxpayers.

POLICY/ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS:

- MSU Extension Service needs to continue to provide research-based information to Montanans in a coordinated and facilitated approach with other partners.
- Continue to support the nutrition education programs of Extension Service to benefit even more Montanans.

COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM

CURRENT SITUATION:

- The Commodity Supplemental Food Program was started in June 2000 in Montana. Currently, it operates from fifty-eight distribution points covering all areas of the state.
- The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) provides a monthly food package to individuals 60 years of age whose income is at or below 130% of poverty.
- This program also provides assistance to WIC-eligible individuals who are not participating in the WIC Program.

PROGRESS (2001 FOLLOW-UP):

Since last year, the CSFP increased the number of distribution sites by 18 percent.

POLICY/ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS:

Continue to promote the program and expand its coverage as the approved caseload allows.

WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN (WIC)

CURRENT SITUATION:

- In State Fiscal Year 2002, the average number of women, infants and children served per month at Montana WIC clinics was 21,088, which was slightly lower than the prior year.

The rate of check redemption remained constant at 95% while the cost per food package increased slightly.

PROGRESS (2001 FOLLOW-UP):

- The Montana WIC Program received a WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) grant. The total grant was \$100,000 for the summer season of farmers' markets. Nine local agencies participated in the program. Women and children in WIC clinics were offered \$16 in FMNP checks to be used at authorized farmers' markets.
- Funded four grants to promote and support breastfeeding through unique local campaign projects during federal fiscal year 2002. The
- Breastfeeding Promotion Projects provided more complete and earlier breastfeeding education prenatally plus breastfeeding assistance and support for breastfeeding families in the early post-partum period. These efforts involved WIC staff, public health nursing, hospital obstetrics staff and local breastfeeding support groups.
- Provided scholarships to two local agency staff enrolled in distance learning internships. Satisfactory completion of the internship helps the student to become a registered dietitian.

POLICY/ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Pursue other funding sources for the required match to apply for a subsequent WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program grant.
- Request discretionary money to provide scholarships for two students to complete dietetic internships or to complete an American Dietetic Association-approved undergraduate degree in dietetics or nutrition.

MONTANA AMERICAN INDIANS

CURRENT SITUATION:

- Montana American Indians continue to experience a higher prevalence of diabetes and other cardiovascular disease risk factors.

PROGRESS:

- The Flathead reservation, in cooperation with the University of Montana and Montana Diabetes Project, has implemented a project using motivational counseling techniques to promote physical activity and improved nutrition among American Indian adults at risk for diabetes.
- Rocky Boy Health Clinic has conducted nutrition education with Head Start and school food service, increased the quality of Head Start snacks and improved the school breakfasts. The clinic's dietitian has also worked with local grocery stores to improve the types of foods available to residents with diabetes.
- The Crow reservation implemented a walking program at the Wyola School and the Lodge Grass Head Start center. The Crow Tribe Diabetes Prevalence Program funded an exercise incentive program, a nutrient analysis program, and an after-school activity coordinator in area schools.
- Both the Fort Peck and Crow reservations have partnered with the Montana Obesity Prevention Program to pilot obesity prevention programs that will focus on nutrition and physical activity strategies. Fort Peck's diabetes prevention project also emphasizes lifestyle changes.
- Fort Belknap reservation has worked with MSU Extension to promote fruit and vegetables during Garden Tours and gardening sessions with community members.

POLICY/ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue to improve American Indians' access to healthy food on Montana's reservations.
- Continue to focus on health behavior changes to reduce American Indians' risk of chronic disease.

EAT RIGHT MONTANA NUTRITION AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY COALITION

CURRENT SITUATION:

- Using the calculated Body Mass Index (BMI) of Montana high school students who responded to the 2001 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, approximately 11 percent of the students were "at risk of overweight," and 6 percent were overweight.

PROGRESS (2001 FOLLOW-UP):

- Piloted the Lewis and Clark Fitness Challenge in selected Missoula and Bozeman elementary schools.
- Implemented the fourth year of the "Healthy Families" nutrition and physical activity media campaign. The 2002 theme focused on weight management for all ages.

POLICY/ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Expand the Lewis and Clark Fitness Challenge statewide in partnership with Team Nutrition.
- Collaborate with Office of Public Instruction to provide funding for school-based nutrition and physical activity programs.
- Expand the "Make a Difference...Make a Change" competition to high school students. The competition encourages students to help make policy and environmental changes in their schools to promote good nutrition and physical activity.

CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM (CACFP)

CURRENT SITUATION:

- As of October 2002, a total of 120 child care centers participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). From April 2001 – April 2002, sponsored family day care homes on the CACFP decreased by nine percent (from 1162 to 1063 homes).

PROGRESS (2001 FOLLOW-UP):

- From April 2000 – October 2002, participation of childcare centers increased in the CACFP Program by over 28 percent. The increase was due to the free/reduced proprietary trial (allowing profit entities to participate), which was implemented in the spring of 2001. The trial program was extended for fiscal year 2002, and to date, no decision has been made regarding continuing this program for the next fiscal year.

POLICY/ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Increase by 10 percent the number of centers that meet the dietary guidelines for calcium, iron and fat. This will be accomplished by conducting 10 trainings for child care centers (300 participants annually). Perform a nutrient analysis of meals served to a sample of child care centers, and identify future training topics based on the analysis.
- Improve the nutritional and financial education of 13 sponsoring organizations by monitoring the provider training that is performed at each of the sponsoring organizations and by offering technical assistance. Assure stable, viable and accountable sponsorships by conducting financial management presentations in two training sessions for 13 sponsoring organizations.

CARDIOVASCULAR HEALTH PROGRAM, DPHHS

CURRENT SITUATION:

- According to the 2001 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, only 31 percent of Montana high school students attended physical education classes daily.

PROGRESS (2001 FOLLOW-UP):

- Provided funding for 26 "Walk to School Day" events in Montana schools.
- Piloted a survey in Helena and Bozeman to assess whether residents believe their community is conducive to walking and biking.
- Worked with the Office of the Governor to implement the Governor's "Strong Families, Healthy Families" initiative. This initiative will focus on nutrition and physical activity efforts in schools, communities and work sites.
- Held the first Cardiovascular Health Summit conference, which emphasized the importance of cardiovascular disease prevention and cardiovascular health promotion. Obtained a grant from CDC to hold the second conference in 2003.

POLICY/ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue working with the Montana Dietetic Association to promote a healthy school nutrition and physical activity environment statewide.
- Conduct the walkability survey in two additional communities by 2003.
- Implement a "Guidelines Applied in Practice" project in Butte to improve care of patients who have had a heart attack.
- Position the Cardiovascular Health Program to apply for a comprehensive program grant, which will provide the capacity and funding needed to effectively reduce the burden of cardiovascular disease in Montana.

NUTRITION AND DISABILITY

CURRENT SITUATION:

- A new member category was added to the Council to represent Montanans with disabilities.
- The Montana Disability and Health Program was created this year to improve the health of Montanans with disabilities. Funded by the

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, this program reflects a 10-year partnership between DPHHS and The University of Montana Rural Institute regarding health promotion for those with disabilities. The main focus is on the nutritional health of adult Montanans with developmental disabilities.

PROGRESS:

- Began work to address disability issues in all Montana State DPHHS programs, including food and nutrition programs (WIC, food stamps, etc.). The Montana Disability and Health Program recognizes that nutrition is a

vital element to good health. Over the next three years, nutrition assessments and program planning will be done to address the health needs of persons with disabilities in Montana.

POLICY/ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Minimize barriers that prevent eligible Montanans with disabilities from participating in food and nutrition programs. Expand the outreach efforts of these programs statewide to persons with disabilities.
- Develop a minimum standard of care in nutrition for Montana's state-contracted residential and supported living service providers.
- Explore avenues for gathering feedback from Montanans with disabilities on food and nutrition-related services issues. Evaluate the feasibility of assessing how frequently Montana adults with disabilities use food programs, including food banks and pantries.
- Characterize the impact of recent food stamp cuts on persons with disabilities who are in supported living arrangements.

AGING SERVICES, DPHHS

CURRENT SITUATION:

- The Aging Network in Montana offers a wide range of nutrition services with the primary goal of helping seniors remain healthy, independent and in their homes. The Network provides nutrition services to over 28,000 people each year.
- Aging programs target senior citizens over 60 who are at the greatest social and economic risk. They include congregate and home delivered meals, liquid supplemental food program, monthly Commodity Supplemental Food Program for low-income seniors and nutrition education programs.

PROGRESS (2001 FOLLOW-UP):

- Received funding for a second year of the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program for 2002. The grant provides fresh Montana produce to over 2,000 low-income senior citizens in seven sites (Billings, Bozeman, Kalispell, Hamilton, Helena, Miles City and Missoula). Local coalitions composed of Area Agencies on Aging, senior centers, WIC programs, and food banks operated the program.
- Through a grant from Florida International University, MSU Extension and a coalition of community agencies in Richland County developed a creative and effective educational program to increase seniors' consumption of fruits and vegetables in a rural setting.

POLICY/ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue outreach efforts to identify and provide nutritional service for seniors at nutritional risk.
- Develop health and fitness programs in conjunction with nutrition programs in senior centers.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE (FOOD STAMP PROGRAM)

CURRENT SITUATION:

- The average number of households served per month increased four percent (26,070 for State Fiscal Year 2001 vs. 27,204 for State Fiscal Year 2002).
- As more families and children live in poverty, their risk of nutritional deficiencies grows, and the potential benefits from nutrition education are even more evident.

PROGRESS (2001 FOLLOW-UP):

- Implemented six-month reporting for most households with countable earned income. The household's only reporting requirement is if their gross monthly income exceeds 130% of poverty for their household size.
- Successfully implemented Montana's Electronic Benefit Transfer card statewide and trained retailers and consumers on the use of the card.
- Continued the efforts of the Public Assistance Bureau to improve payment accuracy to receive bonus funding and to improve program access through quality customer service.
- Through the Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program (FSNEP) implemented by MSU Extension in 30 counties, provided education to help food stamp recipients manage their food resources in a more effective, healthier way. FSNEP Extension nutrition assistants work with the Offices of Public Assistance, Work Readiness Component (WoRC), senior meal sites, afterschool programs, and other organizations to reach a wide variety of food stamp participants in the communities. Evaluations show positive outcomes: more fruits and vegetables consumed, more cost-effective food shopping, and improved food safety practices.

POLICY/ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Simplify food stamp reporting requirements by expanding six month reporting for more eligible households.
- Continue working with staff and communities to improve customer service, program access and outreach.
- Reauthorize and strengthen the Food Stamp Program by implementing policies from the Farm Bill (H.R. 2646) such as partial restoration of food stamp benefits to legal immigrants.
- Support additional funding from state sources to increase FSNEP offerings in counties and communities most at risk because of high numbers of food stamp recipients.

SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMS

CURRENT SITUATION:

- School Nutrition Programs administered by the Montana Office of Public Instruction help ensure students' health and readiness to learn. These programs include the National School

Lunch, School Breakfast, After school Snack, Special Milk, Summer Food Service, USDA Donated Foods and Team Nutrition.

PROGRESS:

- Through the use of school breakfast start-up funds provided by House Bill 353, increased the number of schools participating in the School Breakfast Program. The \$54,865 allocated by the State Legislature plus approximately \$55,000 by the OPI benefited 45 schools within 25 school districts. The number of breakfast meals served in Montana's School Breakfast Program increased by 9 percent.
- Increased by 27 percent the number of schools participating in Montana's Afterschool Snack Program.
- Increased by 7 percent the number of sponsors in Montana's Summer Food Service Program. The number of sites within those sponsors rose by 9 percent.
- As a result of increased funding in the 2002 Farm Bill, increased the number of school districts using the Department of Defense (DOD) Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program from 21 to 183.
- Increased the number of schools implementing nutrition policies that support improved access to healthy foods and beverages sold in competition with school meals. Through the Nutrition \$EN\$E Pilot Project, five high schools offered healthful foods and beverages sold through student-run stores or organizations.
- Through a pilot project with four elementary schools, increased the number of schools implementing a "recess before lunch" policy that encourages a supportive eating environment for children to enjoy lunch.

POLICY/ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS:

- As schools receive Federal funds for additional programs during the 2002-2003 school year, continue to add more participating schools to the Afterschool Snack Program and Summer Food Service Program.
- Improve school districts' access to the DOD Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program by locating distributors in the areas of the state not currently covered.
- Using the 2002 Team Nutrition Training Grant from USDA, support the Healthy School Nutrition Environment initiative to help schools establish policies regulating foods sold in competition with school meals. Provide support through training, technical assistance and mini-grants for a nutrition environment that gives students the skills, opportunities and encouragement to adopt healthy eating habits.

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS 2002

Senior Nutrition Doug Blakley, Helena	MT Food Bank Network Advocacy Council Minkie Medora, Missoula	Food Industry Lynn Paris, Billings
MSU Extension Phyllis Dennee, Bozeman	Food Distribution Gordon Davidson, Helena	Cardiovascular Health Crystelle Fogle, Billings
WIC Chris Fogelman, Helena	MT Assoc. of WIC Agencies Cheryl Kikkert, Hamilton (2002 Chair)	Public Assistance Tammy Poppe, Helena
School Nutrition Christine Emerson, Helena	Child & Adult Care Food Program Dave Rowell, Helena	MT Dept. of Agriculture Angelyn DeYoung, Helena
MT Food Bank Network Peggy Grimes, Missoula (2002 Chair)	Food Safety Howard Reid, Helena	Nutrition & Disability Kathy Humphries, Missoula

2002 FOOD & NUTRITION AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Advisory Council recognized the following individuals for their work to improve the health of Montanans and to eliminate hunger.

- Lani DeDobbeleer, EDUFAIM Program Aide in Glasgow, for her skill in working with low income/at risk families, assisting with nutrition classes and educating parents and children in Head Start.
- Shirley Redding with Extension Service in Big Horn County, for her work with the Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program) and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Program – particularly her role in teaching clients basic nutrition and cooking skills.
- Cheryl Kikkert of Hamilton for her dedication in improving the nutrition of Ravalli County residents including starting a community garden, organizing the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program and coordinating the county WIC Program.
- Karen Coleman of White Sulphur Springs for her work in promoting a healthy lifestyle to elementary, junior and senior high school students.
- Suzy Musser, RN, of Lame Deer for her commitment to improving the health and nutritional status of residents through her work with the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Health Department.
- Hank Hudson, Human and Community Services Division Administrator at Montana Dept. of Public Health and Human Services, for his constant efforts on behalf of low-income Montanans and his support of the groups working with this growing population.
- Josh Slotnik of Missoula for his commitment to providing healthy, nutritious food to the community as Director of Garden City Harvest and the PEAS Program at University of Montana.
- Mary Ann Bucsis of White Sulphur Springs for her efforts with the Meagher County Nutrition Coalition to improve nutrition and reduce hunger in the community.

The following organizations were recognized:

- Missoula 3:16 Rescue Mission for its efforts to feed the homeless in Missoula since 1999. Special recognition was given to founders Dan and Deb Lester and Walt and Pam Herbst.
- Plains Assembly of God Church for the work of its Shekinah Soup Kitchen to reduce hunger and improve the level of nutrition in the community. Special recognition was given to founder Reverend Jim Sinclair and Sam Harvey, Andrea Blanchard, Shannon Allen and Terrie Woods.

2002 Food and Nutrition Council Award Winners



Pictured above front row left to right are: Karen Coleman, White Sulphur Springs; Mary Ann Bucsis, White Sulphur Springs; Lani DeDobbeleer, Glasgow; Shirley Redding, Big Horn County; Suzy Musser, Birney; Lorinda Matthew, Plains; and Cheryl Kikkert, Hamilton. Second row from left to right are: Hank Hudson, Helena; Lana Allen, Plains; Tana Rivinius, Plains; Shannon Allen, Plains; Andrea Blanchard, Plains; and Josh Slotnick, Missoula. Third row left to right are: Sam Harvey, Plains; Rev. Jim Sinclair, Plains; Deb Lester, Missoula and Dan Lester, Missoula. Back row left to right are: Governor Judy Martz; Walt Herbst, Missoula; and Pam Herbst, Missoula.

For more information on the work of the Montana State Advisory Council on Food and Nutrition, contact the chair, Peggy Grimes, at (406) 721-3825, Missoula, Montana.

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